REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 23 have been amended to correct the inadvertent typographical error.

35 USC § 101

Claims 19-25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 101 as allegedly not being directed to statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the rejection to claim 19 was based on the fact that the claim did not recite that the machine readable instructions were tangibly embodied. As a result, claim 19 was amended to recite "An article comprising a tangible machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising".

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC § 101 be withdrawn.

35 USC § 102

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tabbara. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations of previous claim 4. Claim 19 has been amended to recite the limitations of previous claim 22. Tabbara fails to disclose initiating a creation of an object for receiving and converting the semantic request, opening a database connection within a data access system corresponding to the semantic request, and requesting properties of data corresponding to the semantic request, if a database connection has not previously been opened as recited in both claims 1 and 19. The passage cited in support of

the rejection of claim 4 only relates to providing boundaries for a query which are used to define where the DSL looks for facts specified in the query. Moreover, figure 3 is silent as to the creation of an object and 5B only relates to the generation of a query.

Accordingly, claims 1, 19, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

Claims 8 and 26 recite receiving a generic data access command for communicating with a data access system, creating a semantic data access command that corresponds to the generic data access command, and providing a semantic object configured to receive the semantic data access command from an application, and provide a corresponding generic data access command to a data access system. Tabbara also fails to recite these features.

Tabbara is directed to the generation of conceptual query language queries in place of physical language queries (see, inter alia, Tabbara col. 6, lines 42-45). However, Tabbara does not disclose or even suggest that the physical language queries can be converted into conceptual language queries. As a result, Tabbarra fails to disclose, inter alia, receiving a generic data access command and creating a semantic data access command that corresponds to the generic data access command.

Accordingly, claim 8, 26, and their respective dependent claims are allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 11, 2004 along with a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials per MPEP 609.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be

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Serial No. : 10/632,120
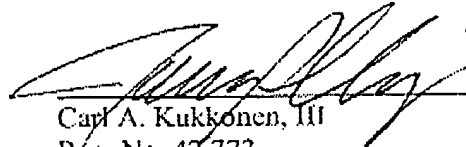Filed   : July 31, 2003
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construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated
in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of
unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/10/06   45,843
                                                 Carl A. Kukkonen, III
                                                 Reg. No. 42,773

Fish & Richardson P.C.
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

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